

Under Larry's leadership, KBI flourished as one of the premiere law enforcement agencies in the State. During his tenure, KBI increased the number of forensic laboratories throughout the State. KBI's forensic laboratory achieved national accreditation, on its first try, from the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors—the first State crime laboratory to do so. Larry's KBI also assisted the Wichita Police Department in solving the Bind, Torture, Kill, BTK, murders in 2004. He has expanded KBI's investigative focus on computer crimes, such as identity theft and child pornography, as well as the rapid growth of the methamphetamine epidemic across Kansas.

I have had the privilege of calling Larry Welch my good friend for so many years. As a former Judge in Texas for 22 years, I have always been impressed by Larry's dedication to the people of our Nation and upholding the tradition of public service. His integrity is above reproach and his competence is extraordinary.

For Larry Welch, being a lawman was his life's calling, and after 46 years, this dedicated and well-respected law enforcement official is hanging up the badge that he has so proudly worn. The citizens and the State of Kansas are fortunate to have his service. In life, there are not many individuals who have the drive or dedication to a career that Larry has had. He is truly one of a kind, and I am honored to pay him this tribute today.

And That's Just The Way It Is.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. CASSIE STATUTO BEVAN

#### HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 21, 2007*

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Cassie Statuto Bevan, a woman who has served this House and the welfare of America's children for more than 20 years.

To Dr. Bevan, there was no such thing as liberal or conservative when it came to protecting the rights and safety of children. In her more than 20 years on the Hill, she worked with members on both sides of the aisle to write and pass meaningful, effective legislation that would keep kids off the streets and in safe, permanent homes. Widely considered the "in-House" expert on child welfare issues, there was rarely, if ever a piece of legislation dealing with the care of children that passed without the benefit of Cassie's expertise and passion.

And Dr. Bevan's service began before many of us were elected to serve in this chamber. She started her work in the House of Representatives in 1984 as a staff member for the newly established Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families, and after several years, she became the Republican Staff Director. In 1993, Dr. Bevan joined the National Council for Adoption to become the Principal Investigator of the Child Protection Project and to head the Council's Office of Public Policy. In 1994, the Speaker of the House appointed Dr. Bevan to serve as a Commissioner on the U.S. Commission on Child and Family Welfare. The following year, Dr. Bevan returned to the House of Representatives as a Profes-

sional Staff Member to the Subcommittee on Human Resources of the Committee on Ways and Means and was promoted to Staff Director at the beginning of the 107th Congress.

In 2001, Dr. Bevan joined then House Majority Whip, Tom DeLay, to serve as his Senior Policy Advisor handling child welfare, welfare reform, and other domestic issues. She continued to serve as the principal staff member to House Majority Leader DeLay on a wide range of issues, including his successful efforts to develop the D.C. Family Court in the wake of the Brianna Blackmond tragedy. Dr. Bevan was the principal staff member on many key pieces of child welfare legislation, including the Inter-Ethnic Placement Act of 1996; the Adoption Tax Credit of 1996; the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997; the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999; the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000, the D.C. Family Court Act of 2001 and the House passed welfare reform reauthorization—the Personal Responsibility, Work and Family Promotion Act of 2002.

Dr. Bevan's work has also been noted outside Capitol Hill and by many national organizations. The National Council for Adoption, the National Association of Psychiatric Treatment Centers for Children, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse have all rightly honored Dr. Bevan for her leadership in child advocacy.

The House of Representatives may be losing one of our brightest, but her fight is not over. In her much-deserved retirement, Dr. Bevan will continue her commitment to helping abused and neglected children, and will raise awareness as a university professor, teaching future generations the battles she has fought, and won, on behalf of the kids who need it most.

We are very sorry to lose such a valuable member of our team, but I know our work together is not done. On behalf of all the members who have had the opportunity to work with and learn from Dr. Bevan, we wish her the best as she continues her fight outside these halls.

#### TRIBUTE TO VETERANS OF NORMANDY LANDINGS

#### HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 21, 2007*

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to sixteen heroic veterans of the D-Day landing on the beaches of Normandy. On Saturday, May 19, 2007, the 250th anniversary of the birth of the Marquis de La Fayette, M. François Gauthier, Consul General of France in Boston, presented the cross of a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor to sixteen citizens of Massachusetts: George Belesoz, Peter B. Bennan, Espen H. Christensen, John B. Crawford, James H. Curran, Mario J. De Cristofario, Michael Delisle, George DePaulo, James A. Foster, Milton Issenberg, George A. Jonic, Robert H. Lubker, John E. McBurney, Thomas I. Powers, Seymour L. Schnuer, and Riley P. Shirley. These remarkable men were already a highly decorated band of brothers: twelve had earned the Purple Heart; nine, the Bronze Star; two, the Silver Star; and three had previously been

awarded the Croix de Guerre. Representatives of the Mohawk Nation also received honor and thanks for their contribution to the Allied victory.

M. Gauthier read a letter from His Excellency Jean-David Levitte, French Ambassador to the United States, who had returned to Paris to serve as national security adviser to President Nicolas Sarkozy. M. Levitte praised the heroes who, as young men, risked their lives for freedom: They came to Europe because they believed in the power of liberty and democracy; they believed in the power of human rights. They came to liberate populations from oppression and tyranny. And for this we are and we will always be grateful.

I thank the government and the people of France for the honor bestowed on the soldiers and sailors of Massachusetts, and, like them, we must never forget the sacrifices of the greatest generation. I look forward to close friendship and continuing cooperation between our sister Republics as we carry on the struggle for human rights and human dignity.

#### INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL HURRICANE RESEARCH INITIATIVE ACT

#### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 21, 2007*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague from Florida, Representative ROS-LEHTINEN and almost 20 bipartisan original cosponsors to introduce the National Hurricane Research Initiative Act.

Although the United States possesses the most capable research enterprise, the largest economy, and the most sophisticated social infrastructure in the world, it remains extremely vulnerable to damage and loss of life from natural disasters. Among weather hazards, hurricanes account for over half of the total economic damage inflicted in the United States.

Since 2001, hurricane damage has cost our nation an average of \$35.8 billion in economic losses per year. Even more, the past two years, hurricanes have caused over 1,450 innocent lives to be lost.

With less than a month before this year's hurricane season is set to begin, now is the time to nationally invest in new research to better prepare, respond and mitigate these disasters.

The National Science Board task force, a 24-member independent advisory body to the President and Congress on national science and engineering issues, recently released a report on January 12, 2007 entitled, Hurricane Warning: The Critical Need for a National Hurricane Research Initiative. Their report warns that relative to the tremendous damage future hurricanes will inflict, the current federal investment in hurricane science and engineering is entirely insufficient. More than ever before, our nation needs a National Hurricane Research Initiative (NHRI) to provide vital hurricane research to adequately respond to these threats.

I come to the floor today to introduce the National Hurricane Research Initiative Act, a comprehensive hurricane research bill which will improve hurricane research dramatically in